

REMARKS

Claims 84-95, 98-104, 108, 112-118, 121-123, and 126 were previously presented. Claims 83, 120, 124-125, and 127 are amended. New Claims 128-130 are added. Claims 1-82, 96-97, 105-107, 109-111, and 119 are canceled. In view of these changes, claims 83-95, 98-104, 108, and 112-118, and 120-130 remain pending in the application.

Rejection of Claim 124, 125, and 127 Under 35 USC §112

Claims 124, 125, and 127 are objected to for being vague and indefinite. In response, Applicant has amended claims 124, 125, and 127 to specify that the self-assembly monolayer is formed before the sample is positioned on the sensor.

Rejection of Claim 123 Under 35 USC §112

Claim 123 is objected to for failing to further limit the subject matter of Independent Claim 83. Figures 7, 8, and 10 and the associated disclosure are methods where both potential and current are employed. In the event only potential is used instead of using both potential and current, the resulting curve in Figures 7, 8, and 10 would be a straight line with a slope of 1. Accordingly, the resulting curve would yield no information. Since the results from using potential and current are different than the results of using only potential, Claim 123 adds an element to Independent Claim 83 and properly narrows Claim 83.

Rejection of Claim 83 Under 35 U.S.C. §102 in View of Choong, et al.

Claim 83 stands rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,518,024 (Choong).

“To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim.” See MPEP §2131. Independent Claim 83 is amended to specify that “molecules in the self-assembly monolayer including a sulfur bonded directly to the at least one electrode.” Choong does not teach a self-assembly monolayer having a sulfur bonded to at least one electrode. As a result, Choong does not anticipate Independent Claim 83.

Rejection of Claim 83 Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 83 stands rejected as being obvious because of U.S. Patent number 4,963,245 (Weetall) and U.S. Patent number 5,200,051 (Cozzette).

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness ... “the prior art references (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.” MPEP §2142. Independent Claim 83 is amended to specify that “molecules in the self-assembly monolayer including a sulfur bonded directly to the at least one electrode.” Neither Weetall nor Cozzette teach or suggest a self-assembly monolayer having a sulfur bonded to at least one electrode. As a result, Independent Claim 83 is patentable over Weetall and Cozzette.

Claims 126 and 130

Claim 126 specifies “the self-assembly monolayer is positioned on the working electrode, the counter electrode, and the reference electrode.” Neither Choong, Weetall, nor Cozzette teaches or suggests the self-assembly monolayer positioned on the working electrode, the counter electrode, and the reference electrode. Additionally, new claim 130 specifies that “the self-assembly monolayer is positioned on the reference electrode.” Neither Choong, Weetall, nor Cozzette teaches or suggests the self-assembly monolayer positioned on the working electrode, the counter electrode, and the reference electrode. Accordingly, claims 126 and 130 are patentable over Choong, Weetall, and/or Cozzette.

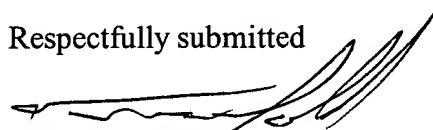
Rejection of Claims 84-95, 98-104, 108, and 112-118, and 120-125, 127-129

Claims 84-95, 98-104, 108, and 112-118, and 120-125, 127-129 depend from Independent Claims 83. Because the Independent Claim 83 is believed to be in condition for allowance, these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The amendments set forth above are presented for a discussion scheduled for November 30, 2004. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted



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